

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 20, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1559

Introduced by Assembly Member Berryhill

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Anderson, Benoit, DeVore, Gaines, Blakeslee, DeVore, Gaines, Galgiani, Houston, Maze, Nakanishi, Silva, Smyth, Strickland, Tran, and Villines)

February 23, 2007

An act to add ~~Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 78255)~~ to Chapter 2 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of *Section 78261.5* to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1559, as amended, Berryhill. Public postsecondary education: associate degree nursing programs.

(1) Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, under the administration of community college district governing boards, and authorizes these districts to provide instruction at the community college campuses they operate.

This bill would require a community college district ~~governing board to adopt and implement a merit-based admissions policy for an associate degree nursing program if, for any academic term, there are more applicants seeking enrollment in that associate degree nursing program than may reasonably be accommodated~~ *that uses multicriteria screening*

measures to evaluate applicants for admission to nursing programs to include specified criteria relating to the academic performance, work or volunteer experience, foreign language skills, and life experiences and special circumstances of the applicant. The bill would require a district that uses multicriteria screening measures to report its nursing program admissions policies to the chancellor in writing. Because the bill would impose new duties on community college districts, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 *SECTION 1. Section 78261.5 is added to the Education Code,*
- 2 *to read:*
- 3 *78261.5. A community college district that uses multicriteria*
- 4 *screening measures to evaluate applicants pursuant to this article*
- 5 *shall apply those measures in accordance with all of the following:*
- 6 *(a) The criteria applied in those multicriteria screening*
- 7 *measures shall include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, all*
- 8 *of the following:*
- 9 *(1) Degrees, diplomas, or certificates held by an applicant.*
- 10 *(2) Grade-point average in relevant coursework.*
- 11 *(3) Any relevant work or volunteer experience.*
- 12 *(4) Life experiences or special circumstances of an applicant,*
- 13 *including, but not necessarily limited to, the following experiences*
- 14 *or circumstances:*
- 15 *(A) Disabilities.*
- 16 *(B) Low family income.*
- 17 *(C) First generation of family to attend college.*
- 18 *(D) Need to work.*
- 19 *(E) Disadvantaged social or educational environment.*
- 20 *(F) Difficult personal and family situations or circumstances.*

1 (G) *Refugee or veteran status.*

2 (5) *Proficiency or advanced level coursework in languages*
3 *other than English. Credit for languages other than English shall*
4 *be received for languages that are identified by the chancellor as*
5 *high-frequency languages, as based on census data. These*
6 *languages may include, but are not necessarily limited to, any of*
7 *the following:*

8 (A) *American Sign Language.*

9 (B) *Arabic.*

10 (C) *Chinese, including its various dialects.*

11 (D) *Farsi.*

12 (E) *Russian.*

13 (F) *Spanish.*

14 (G) *Tagalog.*

15 (H) *The various languages of the Indian subcontinent and*
16 *Southeast Asia.*

17 (b) *Additional criteria, such as a personal interview, a personal*
18 *statement, letter of recommendation, or the number of repetitions*
19 *of prerequisite classes, or other criteria, as approved by the*
20 *chancellor, may be used, but are not required.*

21 (c) *A district that uses multicriteria screening measures pursuant*
22 *to this article shall report its nursing program admissions policies*
23 *to the chancellor in writing.*

24 ~~SECTION 1. Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 78255) is~~
25 ~~added to Chapter 2 of Part 48 of Division 7 of Title 3 of the~~
26 ~~Education Code, to read:~~

27
28 ~~Article 3.5. Associate Degree Nursing Programs~~
29

30 ~~78255. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if, for any~~
31 ~~academic term, at any community college offering an associate~~
32 ~~degree nursing program, there are more applicants seeking~~
33 ~~enrollment in that program than may reasonably be accommodated,~~
34 ~~the governing board of that community college district shall adopt~~
35 ~~and implement a merit-based admissions policy for the~~
36 ~~determination of which applicants may be admitted to that program.~~

37 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
38 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
39 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made

- 1 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 2 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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